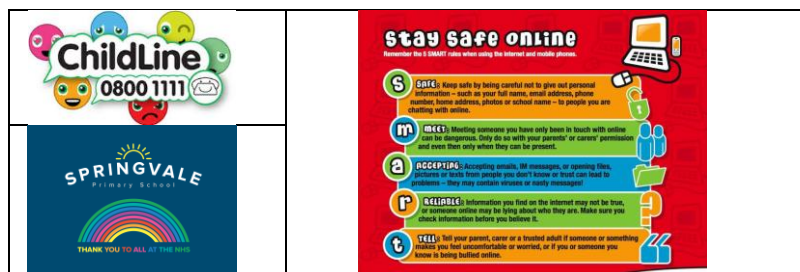


SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Response to Government guidance

Wednesday 13th May 2020

Dear families,

Our Plans to Rebuild – Wider Opening of Education Settings

On Sunday the Prime Minister announced his plans for the phased re-opening of schools. We shared the guidance for schools via email on Monday 11th May. It is the intention that, from Monday 1st June 2020, schools will begin to welcome back children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. Children in these year groups are strongly encouraged to attend (where the school can offer places and there are no 'shielding' concerns for the child or their household), so that they gain the educational wellbeing and benefits of attending. Children who do not attend will not be penalised and the school's attendance data will not be scrutinised.

We are currently risk assessing this situation to ensure that this can happen as safely as possible. Although we initially have good capacity across eight classroom spaces, there will be a limit to the amount of school places that we can offer. This is due to having four different year groups (including a nursery of potentially over 40 different pupils to cater for) in the first instance, as well as the emergency group for critical worker children and those who are deemed to be vulnerable.

Critical Workers and Vulnerable Pupils

For children in the other year groups (Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y5) we will still be providing a service for the children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils. Please be aware, that where demand exceeds capacity, the priority will still be given to critical worker families and within this group priority will be given on a first come, first served basis – therefore early communication of your circumstances is vital. Indeed, the guidance states that prioritisation after the critical worker and vulnerable group will be given to the youngest pupils starting with Nursery and so on.

What will the new provision look like?

It is still too early to say with any certainty but some early, key decisions have been made:

- Times will be staggered and a one way system will be in place for dropping children off and/or picking them up. More details to follow. Pupils will be offered a six hour day similar to the normal school day timings.
- School meals will be a cold picnic tray, this will be taken in the learning space and children can bring their own packed lunch if preferred.
- Children will be assigned to a group of 15 or less pupils and 2 staff members. This group will then stay together throughout the day creating a bubble and avoiding other groups.
- School uniform will not be used for the foreseeable future.
- Children will have their own storage box and desk. If possible we would appreciate it if children in Y1 and Y6, or children in Y2-Y5 emergency provision, could bring their own pencil case with basic stationery- pencil, pen, ruler, rubber, some basic colours and keep it in school. They should also bring a water bottle that has name on it that will be cleaned and refilled daily at school. Sun cream will need to be brought in on hot days as per normal school policy (not to be applied by staff).
- Non-approved and pre-register visitors will not be allowed in to school and all parental communication should be via email or telephone.

Social Distancing Guidelines: I can confirm that for pupils returning to school no class size will be able to exceed 15 pupils (including Nursery). Each environment has been risk assessed to ensure that pupils can remain a good distance apart. However, I need to make you aware that within its' guidance the government has stated the following... "We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2m apart from each other and staff – we are taking this into account." Considering this, please be aware that whilst endeavouring to enforce children to social distance we cannot make this happen or guarantee that this will happen 100% of the time. This becomes more applicable the younger the age-range of the children.

If your child is in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6, or you have a key role and need to return to work, and you wish for your child(ren) to attend school from Monday 1st June please contact school to confirm your application for a place of this before **Friday 15th May at 3pm.** Please do this by emailing us at l.mcclure@springvaleprimary.org as soon as possible. Please note that, if we have too many applications to ensure a 15 pupil limit in each teaching space then we may have to reduce the amount of provision on offer to some pupils. This is because of the limited space and staffing available in school when working within the new guidance parameters. We will contact all parents with more details and reply to emails individually about your own needs.

Please note that we will only consider late applications where there are spaces available after the deadline and until those spaces are filled.

Stay safe everyone and thank you for your outstanding support.

Kind Regards,

Mr L McClure

Headteacher

Mrs K Thorogood

Chair of Governors